



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER ANTHONY YOUNG**



WEEKLY UPDATE OCTOBER 12, 2005

As of Tuesday, October 11, we have 1,132 evacuee families in San Diego representing more than 2,392 individuals. The Red Cross has created and will be distributing (4) **Re-entry Guides for Evacuee Families**. These guides are for evacuee families who temporarily relocated to San Diego following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and who have now decided to return home to Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

Since the families may not know the conditions of their homes, businesses nor their communities, information in the guides include:

- Creating a 'returning home checklist,
- Suggestions on how to manage the stress of returning home,
- Safety precautions when returning home, and
- Lists of useful national, state, parish/county resources.

The Family Assistance Center at 4579 Mission Gorge Place remains the primary place in San Diego for evacuees to access the many services they need and register for future benefits they will receive from FEMA. The hours are now Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Red Cross has also conducted a survey of evacuee clients who have utilized the Family Assistance Center. The results of the survey are as follows:

85% have registered for FEMA benefits

52% indicated they wanted to stay in the San Diego area more than 6 months.

26% said they planned to stay in San Diego less than 3 months

61% are staying with friends/family

7% would be interested in staying with a family who has offered to house evacuees in their home, 70% would not

40% are having difficulty with transportation

84% do not have a job here, 12% are employed.

As you can see, we still have a lot of work to do here in San Diego to help the evacuees and their families. I hope and trust you will continue to give your all and volunteer where needed to ensure that the evacuees residing here in San Diego stabilize their lives and begin moving towards a quality of life we all so richly deserve.

The Hurricane Katrina Unmet Needs Committee has been organized and will hold its first meeting at 10:00 am Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at the Malcolm X Library.

A special meeting of the City Council was convened by the Deputy Mayor to discuss the attorney –client relationship between the City Council and the City Attorney.

My summation of this matter was and is direct and to the point.

The duties and responsibilities of the City Attorney and the Council outlined in this section of the Charter, is very clear to me.

What we may have here between some of my colleagues and the City Attorney is a failure to communicate and differences of opinion on communication styles. Some may not like how the City Attorney communicates and the style in which he communicates. The City Attorney may not like the way some of us communicate and the style in which we communicate.

Again, to me, the Charter is clear on our roles and responsibilities and what the City Attorney can do and what the Council can do under Article V Section 40 of the San Diego City Charter.

I can not support us spending city funds on consultants and lawyers providing us position papers and opinions on what constitutes the roles and responsibilities of the Council and the City Attorney. Therefore, I suggested that the City Attorney and City Council agree to participate in a private mediation session conducted by the San Diego Mediation Center for the sole purpose of improving our communication skills with one another.

At the city council meeting of Monday October 10th, the City Manager provided a status report on the 2006 budget. He requested to direct all general fund departments (except public safety) to implement a 3% budgetary savings plan to address projected budget shortfalls of approximately \$10 million.

I was very concerned about the possibility of further cuts in services and personnel when we are only 3 months into the 2006 budget. I would like to give our new Mayor an opportunity to review the city budget and provide this Council with a range of options to address our immediate and long term needs. Therefore, I requested the City Manager to not implement any actual cuts in services or personnel without bring this matter back to the Council for review and consideration. The Council supported my request. This action will give you the public and the new Mayor and Council an opportunity to fully discuss and take action on addressing the immediate needs of the City that require budgetary action.

My office in collaboration with the 4th Council District Youth Advisory Board and the Malcolm X Library is presenting SAT Prep Month. SAT workshops for grades 9-12 are being held on October 20th and October 27th from 5:00-8:00 pm at the Malcolm X Library. Registration is required and seating is limited. To RSVP please call (619) 527-3405 or Derrick White of my staff at (619) 236-6644.

Thanks for reading my E-mail Message for The Week. If you would like to receive this E-mail on a regular basis, please e-mail me at anthonyyoung@sanidiego.gov.